

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 IGA-02 RSR-01 /174 W

----- 119228

R 180805 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1276

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 518

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, MR, AG, KU, LY, CG, SA, NI

SUBJECT: AFRO- ARAB BACKING FOR GIRM CENTRAL BANK - DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 17 CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS
ENUMERATED STATUS AID COMMITMENTS FROM ARAB AND AFRICAN GOVERN-
MENTS TO SUPPORT MAURITANIA' S NEW NATIONAL CURRENCY. TOTAL
OF DOLLARS SEVENTY- FIVE MILLION PLEDGED TO DATE.

1. ACCORDING TO MOUKNASS, COMMITMENTS TO RESERVES NEW CENTRAL
BANK INCLUDE DOLLARS 20 MILLION FROM KUWAIT AT ONE PERCENT
INTEREST, DOLLARS 25 MILLION FROM LIBYA, DOLLARS 25-30 MILLION
FROM ALGERIA (FIVE TO SIX BILLION CFAF) AND AN UNSPECIFIED
AMOUNT FROM SAUDI ARABIA. MOUKNASS NOTED THAT NIGERIA' S
GENERAL GOWAN ALSO HAD OFFERED FINANCIAL BACKING GIRM CENTRAL
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BANK IF AND WHEN MAURITANIA NEEDS IT.

2. IN AREA OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID
RECENT UNTIED GIFT FROM ZAIRE OF 500 MILLION CFAF (DOLLARS

2.3 MILLION), GRANTED DURING MOBUTU' S MARCH VISIT HERE, WOULD BE USED AS FOLLOWS: 300 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTION COMPLEX TO HOUSE NOUAKCHOTT ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE; 100 MILLION FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION PRE- INVESTMENT STUDIES; AND 100 MILLION FOR STUDIES OF AFTOUT AS- SAHEL SCHEME, (TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF IRRIGATING LARGE AREAS BETWEEN ROSSO AND NOUAKCHOTT USING SENEGAL RIVER WATER.)

3. MOUKNASS ASSERTED FOREGOING CONTRIBUTIONS LARGELY VINDICATED GIRM' S CONFIDENCE IT COULD SOON OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES FLOWING FROM CREATION ITS OWN NATIONAL CURRENCY. HE ADDED THAT THIS EVIDENCE OF AFRO- ARAB SUPPORT SHOULD MAKE FRENCH PONDER WISDOM THEIR " EVIDENT DECISION" TO PENALIZE MAURITANIA FOR HAVING ASSERTED ITS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF PARIS. (DETAILS OF FONMIN' S VIEWS ON LATTER POINT BY SEPTTEL.)
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NOUAKC00518
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730634/abqceapv.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRO- ARAB BACKING FOR GIRM CENTRAL BANK - DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, MR, AG, KU, LY, CG, SA, NI
To: STATE INFO ALGIERS
KINSHASA
JIDDA
KUWAIT
LAGOS
TRIPOLI
PARIS

LONDON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005